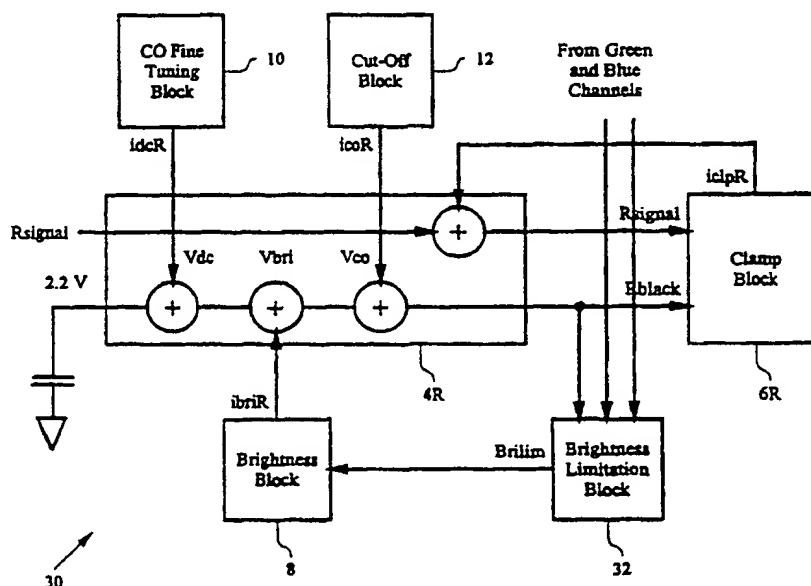




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : H04N 5/59, 9/72	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/57892 (43) International Publication Date: 11 November 1999 (11.11.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/SG98/00031 (22) International Filing Date: 30 April 1998 (30.04.98) (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): SGS-THOMSON MICROELECTRONICS ASIA PACIFIC (PTE.) LTD. [SG/SG]; 28 Ang Mo Kio Industrial Park 2, Singapore 569508 (SG). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): YEE, Chee, Weng [SG/SG]; Block 71 Redhill Road, #05-21, Singapore 150071 (SG). GE, Wei, Guo [CN/CN]; STS Microelectronics, Design Center, 52 Taohua Road, 518038 Futian Free Trade Zone, Shenzhen (CN). DESPREZ-LE GOARANT, Yann [FR/SG]; SGS-Thomson Microelectronics, APDC, 28 Ang Mo Kio Industrial Park 2, Singapore 569508 (SG). (74) Agent: DONALDSON & BURKINSHAW; P.O. Box 3667, Singapore 905667 (SG).		(81) Designated States: JP, SG, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published With international search report. With amended claims.

(54) Title: AUTOMATIC BRIGHTNESS LIMITATION FOR AVOIDING VIDEO SIGNAL CLIPPING



(57) Abstract

Television circuits which operate at low voltages can have difficulties with signal clipping effects. Accordingly, a brightness limitation system is employed in such a television circuit to prevent the black reference voltage level and the video signal from entering a minimum signal clipping zone, to provide a precise correction signal, limiting the brightness, to maintain a constant black reference voltage level, and maintain a video signal with dynamic amplitude. The brightness limitation circuit detects a minimum signal level amongst the black reference signals from each colour channel and compares the minimum signal with a fixed voltage level to generate a brightness feedback signal. The brightness feedback signal is then used to modify the black reference signal level for each colour channel.